IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA ORANGEBURG DIVISION

Laura Hart,	
Plaintiff,	Civil Action No.: 5:18-cv-00338-JMC
v.)	ORDER
Andrew M. Saul, Commissioner of Social) Security Administration,)	
Defendant.)	

This matter is before the court on Plaintiff Laura Hart's ("Plaintiff") Motion for Attorney's Fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act ("EAJA"), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), filed on July 15, 2019. (ECF No. 34.) Defendant Andrew M. Saul, the Commissioner of Social Security Administration ("the Commissioner"), responded to Plaintiff's Motion on July 29, 2019, and indicated that he did not oppose Plaintiff's Motion. (*See* ECF No. 35 at 1.) Specifically, the Commissioner does not oppose an award of four thousand two hundred eighty-six dollars and seventy-nine cents (\$4,286.79) in attorney's fees and twenty dollars and four cents (\$20.04) in costs. (ECF No. 35 at 1.) After reviewing Plaintiff's Motion (ECF No. 34) and the Commissioner's Response (ECF No. 35), the court finds that the stipulated request for fees is reasonable and that Plaintiff is entitled to an award of attorney's fees under the EAJA.

In accordance with *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586, 589 (2010), EAJA fees awarded by this court belong to the litigant, thus subjecting EAJA fees to be offset under the Treasury Offset Program, 31 U.S.C. § 3716(c)(3)(B). Therefore, the court directs that fees be payable to Plaintiff and delivered to Plaintiff's counsel. *Ratliff*, 560 U.S. at 589. The amount of attorney's fees payable to Plaintiff will be the balance of stipulated attorney's fees remaining after subtracting the amount

of Plaintiff's outstanding federal debt. 31 U.S.C. § 3716. If Plaintiff's outstanding federal debt

exceeds the amount of attorney's fees under the stipulation, the stipulated amount will be used to

offset Plaintiff's federal debt and no attorney's fees shall be paid. See 31 U.S.C. § 3716. (See also

ECF No. 35 at 1–2.)

After a thorough review of Plaintiff's Motion (ECF No. 34) and the Commissioner's

Response (ECF No. 35), the court **GRANTS** Plaintiff's Motion for Attorney's Fees (ECF No. 34)

and awards \$4,286.79 in attorney's fees and \$20.04 in costs.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

J. Michelle Childs

United States District Judge

July 29, 2019 Columbia, South Carolina